



Photo on loan from the Robb family

Riley Ross, a former Colby High School wrestling standout, moves into position to pick up a couple of points in the recent Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championship tourney. He took first in his weight class and now heads to the NCAA Division II national showdown in Wisconsin.

Colby grad qualifies for NCAA II tourney

By TOM A. DREILING
Free Press Publisher

There will be a familiar face at this week's (March 8-9) NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships at Kenosha, Wis. Familiar, that is, to Colby wrestling fans.

The face is that of Riley Ross, son of Robb and Julie Ross, and a graduate of Colby High School, where he made a name for himself on the wrestling mat.

Riley is wrestling for the University of Nebraska at Kearney Lopers and is one of the school-record seven wrestlers qualifying for the NCAA showdown.

A junior wrestler in his senior year — he was a red-shirt freshman, giving him one more year eligibility — Riley takes to the mat in the 165-lb. weight class. He was one of the Lopers receiving a No. 1 seed at the recent Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Tournament, and went on to win his weight class.

The tourney allowed Riley to place still another notch on his belt because, for the second time in the past couple of weeks, he beat Dave Vondy of Western State/Gunnison, Colo., 3-2. Vondy, it should be mentioned, is the defending national champion at 165.

Another outstanding Loper wrestler is Bryce Abbey, a freshman from Goodland, who also will be going to

the national championships. Abbey wrestles at 125.

The Lopers earned the titles of RMAC/West Regional Champions, compiling 111.5 points (RMAC race) and 108.5 (Region race). The Lopers, incidentally, are ranked 6th nationally.

Coach Marc Bauer was named RMAC Coach of the Year, an honor he first won in 2000 when he led the Lopers to their first conference championship.

Riley, who is majoring in sports administration at UNK, graduated from Colby High School in 1998. His high school wrestling career included being a three-time state qualifier and two-time state placer. He wrestled at 145 his senior year, and as a freshman competed at 119 lbs.

The University of Wisconsin-Parkside is hosting the national show in the Frank J. Petretti Fieldhouse, 900 Wood Road, Kenosha, and among featured schools will be the 2000 and 2001 national champion North Dakota State, looking for a third straight national title. Top teams, in addition to the University of Nebraska at Kearney, include Nebraska-Omaha, South Dakota State and Central Oklahoma and they will be trying to knock the North Dakota State Bison off their perch.

Colby Lady Eagles to state

Dispose of Scott City in 4A substate at Pratt

By RALPH WOLF
Colby Free Press

Next stop: State!
For the second time in three years, the Colby Lady Eagles are headed for the Class 4A State Basketball Tournament at Salina. They won the championship of the 4A Substate Tournament at Pratt Saturday evening by beating Scott City, 48-33, to set up the trip to the Salina Bicentennial Center.

The Lady Eagles, with a record of 21-2 will meet Andale at 4:45 Wednesday afternoon in first round state action. Andale, incidentally, also has a 21-2 record.

The Eagles used a stifling man-to-man defense to defeat the Scott City Lady Beavers, and move their winning streak to 20 games.

Colby held at 16-7 advantage at the end of one period of play and 24-11 at the first half buzzer.

The Eagles took to the floor in the third quarter a bit sluggish, but managed, however, to outscore the Bea-

vers, 9-8 to take a 33-19 lead into the final stanza.

Summar Stephens was perfect from beyond the arc in the first half, connecting on all 3 of her long-range shots. She led the way with 19 points, added 2 rebound to her credit and 2 steals.

Bethanie Linden put in 10 points, while leading the team in rebounding with 7 and also in assists with 3.

Emily Sloan added 7 points and 3 rebounds.

Amanda Seemann and Ivy Ramsey both finished the game with 4 points each. Additionally, Seemann gathered in 3 rebounds, 1 steal and 1 assist, while Ramsey grabbed two boards, 5 steals and blocked 3 shots.

Brianna Swafford tossed in 3 points, grabbed 1 rebound, stole the ball 2 times and dished out 1 assist.

Breann Hart finished the game with 1 point and 1 rebound.

Samantha Wolf had 2 assists, Desiree Sharp 1 rebound and Shawna Cox also saw action.



KIM WOLF/Colby Free Press

Time Out! the Colby Lady Eagles got a much needed time out and instructions from head coach Tom Beckman during Saturday evening's 4A Substate championship game at Pratt. The Eagles won, 48-33 and play Wednesday afternoon in the first round of the 4A State at Salina.

As a team, the Lady Eagles shot an impressive 44 percent from the field, 60 percent from 3-point land and 73 percent from the free-throw line.

KU posts perfect 16-0 mark in conference play

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — On the same floor where so many sterling seasons were spoiled, top-ranked Kansas reached Big 12 perfection.

"Our league is so tough," forward Nick Collison said after the Jayhawks became the first team in the 6-year-old league to go unbeaten with a 95-92 victory over nemesis Missouri on Sunday. "No one in college basketball is going through their league undefeated, and to do it in one of the top two conferences in the nation, it says a lot."

To do it at Missouri says even more.

Five of the last six times Kansas (27-2, 16-0) played at Missouri with a Top 5 ranking, it lost. That includes 1997 and '98, when the Jayhawks absorbed their lone conference loss each time. In 1997, they also were No. 1 and lost their only regular-season game in double-overtime.

Missouri (20-10, 9-7) was the last Big Eight team to go unbeaten, doing it in 1994, and wanted that distinction to stand a little longer in the Big 12, which added four former Southwest Conference schools six years ago.

"They're terrific, no question about it," coach Quin Snyder said. "They've done something that no team in the Big 12 has ever done. We were hell-bent on not letting that happen."

So the best thing about beating Missouri, the way Kansas coach Roy Williams saw it, was he won't have to answer questions about why he didn't win.

"And the second best, and it is in that order, is that it makes us 16-0," he said. "They did get very enthused and ready to play us, perhaps more ready to play us than anybody else."

There was quite a bit of celebrating

as the Kansas players left the court with their fingers raised high in the air. Guard Kirk Hinrich entered the locker room with a shout of "Making history!"

Still, Kansas has had a handful of close calls during its run, winning in overtime at Texas Feb. 11 and beating Nebraska by a point Feb. 24. So Williams said he didn't think about going unbeaten until after the Jayhawks' 103-68 victory over Kansas State on Wednesday.

"It's a happy locker room," Williams said. "The kids, they never had a goal to be 16-0, but as it came closer down the stretch they were asked about it so often."

"It never became a goal of mine until after the Kansas State game, but it feels good to do it now."

Collision had 28 points and seven

rebounds and Kirk Hinrich had 25 points and nine rebounds for Kansas, which overcame foul trouble to guard Jeff Boschee and an off game by forward Drew Gooden.

Gooden had 15 points on 5-of-17 shooting and Boschee had seven points, half of his average, in only 15 minutes.

"You can't play basketball and win big-time games with the leading 3-point shooter in Kansas history sitting over there with me," Williams said. "We need him in the game a lot longer than he was today."

Nothing was certain until the final buzzer.

After trailing by as many as 11 points after halftime Missouri twice rallied to tie it and briefly led after Arthur Johnson's three-point play made it 92-91 with 1:57 to go.

Trojan Briefs

BASEBALL
March 5 — Trinidad JC (Colorado), at home, 1 p.m.
March 6 — McCook CC (Nebraska), there, 1 p.m.
March 9 — Northeastern JC (Sterling, Colo.), at home, 1 p.m.
To Date — lost 2-1 and 7-1 to Lamar

CC (Colo.); lost 16-15, won 20-8 vs. Northeastern JC; lost 16-11 and 14-4 to Western Nebraska CC (Scottsbluff).

SOFTBALL
March 5 — Dodge City, there, 3 p.m.
March 7 — Garden City., at home, 3 p.m.

Colby Rec Basketball

Men's Basketball
March 3
Stephens Const. 55 vs. ZEZ 26

Trojans 89 vs. Comfort Inn 79
Coors/Woofer 62 vs. Cox 39
Kidder 63 vs. Sports Shoppe 56

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